

Workforce & Career Development Division

Director's Corner

As many of you are aware, the Workforce & Career Development Division (WCDD) is currently going through a major transition to realign a number of our roles and responsibilities to better serve our customers. This work continues and we greatly appreciate your patience and understanding during this time. We will continue to keep you informed as the transition settles out to ensure we continue to provide you the best service possible. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to personally support you.

I would like to take a minute to recognize our amazing contributors to this monthly publication. We could not bring you up-to-date workforce system news and features stories if we didn't have dedicated staff here submitting articles to share with our system followers. These staff have their finger on the pulse of our services, legislation, national activity, and policy. Without their valued support of this publication we could not keep you all informed. Please join me in saying "thank you" for all they do to keep the System Focus alive and well!

Federal Bonding Program Turns 50

The U.S. Department of Labor recently recognized the 50th anniversary of federally-sponsored bonding in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Justice's National Reentry Week. Here in Washington as part of the federal bonding program, the Employment Security Department provides bond coverage for individuals with barriers that could lead employers to question their reliability or honesty and deny them a job. This could be those with a criminal background, WorkFirst participants, dishonorably discharged veterans, recovering substance abusers (alcohol or drugs), individuals with a poor credit history, or economically disadvantaged persons who lack work histories. To learn more about [federal bonding](#) call 800-339-3981 or inquire at a [local WorkSource office](#).

Comment Period Closes on Local WIOA Plans

The public comment period on the local 2016-20 WIOA plans closes on May 31. Final, signed plans are due to the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTECB) by June 10. WTECB is expected to take action on the local plans in the form of recommendations to the Governor at a special board meeting on June 22 with the intention to accomplish Governor's approval of the plans by June 30.

Veterans Education Summit Wows Participants

Approximately 80 staff made up of Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program specialists (DVOPs), Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs), Veterans' program supervisors, WorkSource office administrators and Employment Security Department (ESD) regional directors, partners and Idaho Vets' staff descended on Spokane for the four-day 2016 Veterans Education Summit, held May 24th – 27th. The action packed agenda included National Veterans Training Institute breakout training in Employer Outreach and Advance Case

Management, as well as a Supervisor/Manager track taught by Washington state Veterans program coordinator Sam Mitchell. Day two held exciting updates from DOL/VETS, Washington Department of Veterans Affairs, ESGR, Federal Veterans Administration, and VR&E, as well as discussions about community partnering. Day three focused on best practices, ESD strategic goals, social media, WIT, WIOA, and YesVets, culminating in an awards dinner. The final day covered program updates, working with transitioning service members and Veterans Preference. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting event in next month's System Focus.

***Please send us your feedback!***

We want this newsletter to reflect our system and welcome your suggestions for future articles. Let us know what you'd like to see, or send us an article about something important to you! E-mail us at ESDGPWCDDTST@esd.wa.gov.

YouthWorks: a Continuing Catalyst of Change

For the last three years the ESD strategic plan has included providing resources to people who will be looking for work in the future; this includes transitioning military personnel, community and technical college students, and youth. The YouthWorks initiative meets ESD's core mission by making job-seekers better-prepared for the workforce when they begin searching for jobs. YouthWorks serves as an integral part of that strategy.

Washington's young adults aged 18-24 continue to struggle with high unemployment. Some 15.5 percent of our state's young adults were unemployed in 2013,[1][1] more than double the rate (6.1 percent) of those aged 25-64. While it's not unusual for young adults to have higher unemployment rates than older workers, young adults in the pre-recession year of 2007 had an unemployment rate of 10.6 percent, a third lower than the 2013 rate.

Education, beyond a high school diploma, is proven to help young adults successfully enter the labor market, earn higher wages and increase their job security. Unemployment rates for young adults drop considerably as individuals obtain postsecondary education or training. Young people who earn a two-year or four-year degree have the lowest rates of unemployment, at 6 percent and 7 percent,[2][2] respectively.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which took effect July of 2015, requires WDCs to spend at least 75 percent of youth grant funds on out-of-school youth, compared to 30 percent under its predecessor the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The Act also places a new priority on work-based learning by requiring that at least 20 percent of local youth grant funds (for both in-school and out-of-school services) be used for paid and unpaid work experiences that have an academic and occupational education component. These program investments may include employment opportunities, pre-apprenticeship programs, internships, job shadows and on-the-job training.

In each community, the local Workforce Development Council (WDC), the school district, and other stakeholders to work together to implement the program, recruit and organize employer involvement, and coordinate student participation. YouthWorks emphasizes career readiness efforts in all 12 workforce development areas in the state and expands beyond school districts to involve community-based organizations to reach youths who are no longer in school or are experiencing homelessness.

The third phase of YouthWorks projects, supported by the Governor's discretionary funds, and Carl Perkins funding was just announced by Governor Jay Inslee, at a news conference held in Seattle on April 7th.

As with the two previous YouthWorks projects, this next phase promises to expand services to include another 3,000 or more youth in Washington state. The expanded opportunities, targeted towards homeless and out-of-school youth, for career planning, business mentors, and work based learning will help position our state as a leader in developing our youth and providing a skilled workforce to employers. More importantly, YouthWorks, as a catalyst for change, will continue to improve the employment and economic outlook for youth statewide.

[1][1] Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2013, Current Population Survey. Note: The BLS survey includes 16- and 17-year olds and thus does not completely align with this report's definition of young adult (18-24). [2][2] U.S. Census Bureau's 2012 American Community Survey



New Policy Guidance

[WIOA Policy 5404:](#)

Procurement and Selection of One-Stop Operators and Service Providers

[WIOA Policy 5410, Rev. 1:](#)

Dispute Resolution and Appeals

[WIN 0042 Change 3:](#)

PY16 Self Employment Training Demand Targets

[WIN 0051 Change 2:](#)

Grant Application and Endorsement Requests

[WIN 0077:](#)

WorkSource Services Catalog

June 2016 Featured Events

WorkSource Services Catalog Technical Assistance WebEx

Thursday, June 2, 2016
2:00-3:30 p.m. Pacific

[Click to join the meeting:](#)

Meeting ID 920 560 948
Password: dm8Aur7p

Type in your phone
number for a call-back, or
dial 1-877-668-4493